

110 STAT.
2104

PUBLIC LAW 104-192—AUG. 21,
1996

Public Law 104-192
104th Congress

An Act

To amend title 18, United States Code, to carry out the international obligations of the United States under the Geneva Conventions to provide criminal penalties for certain war crimes.
[H.R. 3680]

War
Crimes
Act
of 1996,
18 USC
2401
note.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House
of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress
assembled,*

SECTION 1 SHORT TITLE.

**This Act may be cited as the "War Crimes
Act of 1996".**

**SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN WAR
CRIMES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 18, United States
Code, is amended
by inserting after chapter 117 the following:

"CHAPTER 118—WAR CRIMES

"Sec.

"2401. War crimes.

"§2401. War crimes

"(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever, whether inside
or outside the United
States, commits a grave breach of the
Geneva Conventions in
any of the circumstances described in
subsection (b) shall be fined
under this title or imprisoned for life or
any term of years, or
both, and if death results to the victim,
shall also be subject to
the penalty of death.

"(b) CIRCUMSTANCES.—The circumstances
referred to in sub-
section (a) are that the person committing
such breach or the
victim of such breach is a member of the
Armed Forces of the
United States or a national of the United
States (as defined in
section 101 of the Immigration and
Nationality Act).

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this
section, the term "grave
breach of the Geneva Conventions" means
conduct defined as a
grave breach in any of the international
conventions relating to
the laws of warfare signed at Geneva 12
August 1949 or any
protocol to any such convention to which
the United States is
a party."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
chapters for part I
of title 18, United States Code, is

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117 the
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item:

"118.

War

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2401".

Appr
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LEGISLA
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HISTORY

H.R.
3680:

HOUSE
REPORT
S. No.
104-698
(Comm.
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